


wyfe, but cruelly and fyerly answered vnto her. False
strumpet dysordynate of as moche as thou arte with
chylde I ought lytell to reioyse me, for I am so moche
enformed of i. ygouernement y I haue nothyng, and
that dysloyally thou haste habandoned thyselfe vnto o-
ther than me. Whan they sawe that y Emperour wol-
de not refrayne hym nor appele his Ire for nothyng,
by a comyn accorde they toke her and ledde her in to a
chambre. And the moore amply that they myght helde
her with wordes in shewyng vnto her her gre. e fau-
te, and the sorrowful lady was dysorned in the chambre
that hadde her face dysteyned with blode. The ladyes
that were next her persone brought her fayne water to
washe her withall. And at that poynt entred in to her
chambre her squyer named Blandymayn. And whan
he sawe her in suche estate, he wepte for pyte, and sayd
vnto her. Ha madame I se well that you are falsly be-
trayed. I beseeche god that cursed be y persone that has
the purchased you this euyl. For god my ryght dere las-
dy take a lytell comforte vnto you. And yf you wyll be-
leue me I shall lede you in to fraunce agayne towar-
de the kynge Depyn your broder / the whiche gaue me
vnto you for to serue you in your necessytees / the whi-
che thyng I wolde do after my pynsaunce. Byleue my
counsayll and we shall retozne in to fraunce agayne.
For you maye be sure that the Emperoure shall make
you dye shortly with grete shame and dishonour. Then
answered the dolorous lady. Ha Blandymain my fren-
de it sholde be to me to shamefull and dysonest for to
go in suche maner without other deliberyon. And it
myght be beleued lyghtly that y Emperour had goode
cause, and that I were culpable of the dede. Wherfore

I had leuer dye an euill dethe/ than for to recouer bla
 me for a thyng that I am innocent of/ & accused with
 out cause. After these thynges thus sayd/ þe Emperour
 that was with the barons a lytell moderate and satys
 fyed of his Ire/ he sente for his wyfe Bellyssant/ þe whi
 che was brought befoze hym quykely. Whan he sawe
 her his herte trembled for sorowe for this that he durst
 not put her to dethe/ bycause of her broder kynge Ber
 pyn/ and his puyssaunce. With rude wordes he layd to
 her. False and cursed woman by the is myn honour by
 turped wherfore I sweare god that and it were not for
 thy broders sake/ the valyaunt kynge Berpyn/ I sholde
 make the to be brente in a fyre/ but for his sake thy lyfe
 shall be prolonged at this present tyme. Now I do the
 to wyte that from this houre I banyshe the/ & expulse
 the from my countree and Empyre/ in commaundyn
 ge the expresly that to morowe thou departe out of this
 cyte/ for yf I se the ony more/ thou shall neuer haue res
 pyte tyll thou haue suffred dethe. And yet I commaū
 de all them of my countre/ that there be none so hardy
 of them to accompany you/ or conueye/ saue alonely your
 squyer Blandymayn that you brought out of Fraunce
 with you. Go where as you wyll goo at your auenture/
 for thou shall neuer slepe by my syde/ nor in my bedde/
 Soone after the commaundement of the Emperoure
 that was shorte and sodayne/ without sojourne or dela
 cyon/ the Emperesse Bellyssant/ and her squyer Blandy
 mayn mounted on hors backe and came in to the Cyte.
 Where as was shedde ful many a tere/ bothe of lordes
 and ladyes/ knyghtes/ and squyers/ with all the comyn
 people/ þe whiche cryed and sorowed out of mesure/ for
 they made suche lamentacyons that there was neuer



lene nor herde so pyteous a thyng. Every body ranne
vnto the gate for to comaunde the good lady vnto god
that by the false Archebysshoppe was so pyteously bas-
nysshed. And at the yssue of the gate they made the py-
tefullest crye y^e euer was herde. Nowe gothe Blandy-
mayn that conduyteth the sorowfull lady Bellystant/
And hath taken the way to go towarde the realme of
Fraunce. Whan the lady was oute of the walles of the
cyte and that she sawe herselfe in the felde pyteously
aourned lyke a woman shame and dyshonoured she
wayled bytterly. For she consydered the lygnage and y^e
bloode ryall that she was yssued out of the ryght hyghe
magnyfycence impervall that she had ben put in. And
after thought on the myserable and dolorous fortune y^e
was torned vpon her so sodaynly she sayd. Alas alas
wherfore tarpyeth dethe that he wyll not come & abyde
ge my lyfe / and fynyshe my dolours and anguysshes/
Alas I was bozne in an unhappye houre for to iustre su-
che payne / and for to fall from so hye estate vnto suche
pouerte / for of all the unhappyes I am the moost un-
happye. Now is al my ioyes traniued in to dystres
my laughynge chaunged in to wepynges / my songes
conuerted in to syghes. In the stede of the clothe of gol-
de that I was wonte for to were / I am as a woman
publyke ful of iniuries and bytupere comytted & aour-
ned. And of precyous stones of inestymable valour / on
all sydes I must the remenaunt of my myserable lyfe
arouse my vesture with bytter teeres / that shall make
my lyfe and my dayes to fynyshe. O you pastozelles
of y^e felde consyder my grete dolours / and wepe myn
exyle. Now pleased it god and the byrgyn Mary that
I were descended of as poore estate as the poorest of y^e

worlde/at the leest I sholde haue doloure to se me in su
che pouerte. Alas wherfore lychteth me the sonne/and
wherfore dothe the erthe susteyne me/for I haue no ne
de that the daungerous fountayne of dyscelle oppresse
me so sore. for it is not in myne humayne payssaunce/
to bewaile the profounde sorowe that my poore herte
endureth. O false enuye and treason / I ought well for
to curse the with my herte/for by the to daye I am the
moost sorowfullest creature luyng vpon the erthe. Al
my broder the kynge & myn/what shal ye do with this
poore dyscomforted. It were better for you that I had
neuer ben bozne of my moder/or that from the wombe
of my moder I hadde ben put vnder the erthe. In ma
kynge this aspre complaynt the lady abode in a wood
ne vpon the horsbacke/ & she was almost fallen dow
ne or that Blandymayn myght come vnto her/then he
dressed her vp and sayd vnto her. Alas madame take
vnto you some comferte/and entre not so in to dyspay
re/haue stedfast truste in god / for euen soo as you are
innocente he shall kepe you and defende you alwayes/
Then he espyed a ryght fayre fountayne/towarde the
whiche he ledde the lady. And also nere it as he myght
he set her downe for to repose her and refreshe her. He
re I wyll leue to speke of them/ and wyll speke of the
Archebysshop that perseuered in his malyce dampnas
ble and dyabolike.



How the Archebysshop put hym in the habyte of a
knyght/and mounted on horsbacke for to folowe y
Empresse Bellylant y was banysht. Ca. iiii.



When the Archebyschop sawe that the lady was
 departed / he thought in hymselfe that he wol-
 de go after her / and that with her he wolde do
 his pleasure. He lefte rochet and other vesture / and as
 irregular and apostate / gyrded his swerde aboute hym /
 and mounted vpon a swyfte courser / and folowed fast
 after / for he had one of the best coursers of all Constan-
 tynoble. He rode so faste that within short tyme he had
 ryden a grete waye . And of all them that he mette he
 asked tydynges of the noble lady Bellyssant. And they
 shewed vnto hym the waye that she helde. So longe ro-
 de the false traytour Archebyschoppe that he entred in

to a myghty grete forest and a longe he toke the hyghe
waye and enforced hym to ryde a paas. He had not ry-
den longe whan he apperceyued the lady with Blandy
mayn the whiche were besyde the fountayne where as
the lady was discomfited for to refresshe her/and rest her
for she was wery and heuy full of sorowe and doloure/
so that she myght not lusteyne her. Whyles that Blan-
dymayn comforted the sorowfull lady/þ Archebysshop
drew nere them/and knewe the fayre Bellyllant/ but
she knewe hym not a ferre bycause that he was dysgy-
sed/ but whan he approched she knewe hym well ynou-
ghe. Alas sayd she Blandymayn / I se nowe come to
warde vs the false Archebysshop that is cause of myn
exyle. Alas I am to soze aferde that he do me not some
vyllanye. Lady sayd Blandymayn / haue of hym ney-
ther fere nor doubte. for yf he come for to doo you euyl
or displeasure I shal put my body for to defende yours
vnto the dethe. At these wordes was arryued the arche-
bysshop that lyght of his hors /and salued the lady in þ
best maner that he myght and sayd. Ryght dere and ho-
noured lady/ yf so be that þ Emperour hathe dechaced
you/ yf you wyll accepte me for to be your loue/and ac-
complys the my desyre/ I shall do so moche towarde the
Emperour that he shall put you in your fyrste estate/ &
be exalted moze hygher than euer you were / wherfore
aunse you/ for I do it for your grete honoure and prouf-
fyte. Ha sayd the lady/ dysloyall and cruell aduersary of
all honoure impervall/ I ought well to haue cause to lo-
ue the/ and holde the dere / whan that by thy false ma-
lyce thou haste made the Emperour vnderstonde that
I haue myserably borne me towarde his maieste/ and
made me be deiecte from all honoure and prosperyte./

Thou hast put me in the waye of extremyte and mys-
erye/and is the causer that I shal fynyshe my dayes in
dolorous dystresse / for there is not a more dyscomfor-
ted lady in the worlde than I am. Lady leue suche wo-
des / for by me there can nothing come to you but good
For I am puyssant ynoughe for to chaunge your do-
loure and dyscomforte in to Ioye & solace / more than
euer you had. In sayenge these wordes he enclyned hys
toward the lady / and wende to haue kyssed her . But
Blandymayn sterte bytweene them and gaue the Arche-
bysshop so grete a stroke that he felled hym vnto the er-
the / and brake twayne of his tethe. The Archebysshop
gate hym vp and drewe his swerde quykly. And Blan-
dymayn toke a glayue that he had broughte with hym
and assaylled hym ryght asprely / and the Archebysshop
hym. They fought soo longe that they were bothe sore
wounded. And as they were thus fyghtynge / there ar-
ryued on them a notable marchaunt / that ascryed vnto
them also ferre as he myght se them saynge. Lordes
lordes leue your debate / and tell me fro / whens it proce-
deth / & I shall tell you who hathe ryght or wronge. Syr
sayd Blandymayn let vs fynyshe our enterpryse. Alas
sayd the lady socoure vs / for here is the fals preest that
wyl take myn honour from me by force / whiche is the
curled Archebysshop / that hathe separed me by treaso-
from my lord and husbnde the Emperoure. Whan y
marchaunt vnderstode her / he had grete pyte on her / &
sayd to the Archebysshop . Syr leue your enterpryse / &
touche not the lady / for and the Emperoure knewe of
this dede / he wolde make you deye an euill dethe before
all the worlde. Also soone as the Archebysshoppe vnder-
stode the marchaunt speke / he left the batayll quykly

and began for to fle thourighe the wodde. He was ryght
sorrowfull that he was knowen / for he thoughte well to
haue had his pleasure of þ lady. But he enterprysed su-
che a thyng / wherby his treason was knowen / after-
warde / and dysclosed as it shall be recounted to you af-
terwarde. After the departynge of the Archebysshop þ
lady abode in the wodde belyde the fountayne tryste &
sorrowfull / with Blandymayne þ was wounded. The
marchaunt that was abyden sayd. Alas lady I se that
by the Archebysshop ye are falsly betrayed / and haue be-
expulled from the Emperoure. Now god gyue me gra-
ce to lyue so longe that I maye accuse hym of this myl-
dede / and to purchase his dethe. Lady to god I com-
maunde you the whiche gyue you pacyence & comforte
Soo the marchaunte toke his leue / and Blandymayn
thanked hym many tymes. Then Blandymayn moun-
ted the lady vpon her hors / and after mouited vpon his
owne / and wente vnto a lodgyng that was there besyde
where as they abode by the space of. viij. days for
to hele Blandymayn. Whan he had rested hym / & that
he myght ryde they put them vpon the waye towarde
Fraunce. And the sorrowfull lady complayned her by þ
waye and sayd. Alas Blandymayn my frende / what
may my broder & all the lordes saye of my pyteous ca-
se / whan they shall knowe that for a vyllaynous dede
I am so shamefully deiecte from the Emperoure / and
as a comon woman banysshed the Empyre of Consta-
tynoble. Alas I am ryght certayne that my broder wyl
byleue lyghtly that I am culpable of the dede / & make
me dye shamefully / for he is ryght fyerse of courage / la-
dy sayd blandymayn be of good chere / & put your trust
in god. In spekyng thus Blandymayn that the lady



